

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 AGR-10

AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00

AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NSCE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 /110 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1830

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ROME 9333

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL - JUNE 23 - 27

REF.: ROME 6329

1. AFTER MORE THAN TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION FRIDAY EVENING, CHAIRMAN REPORTED TO WEO THAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MAREI WAS ATTENDED BY NUMEROUS DELEGATIONS IN ADDITION TO CHAIRMAN OF REGIONAL GROUPS. DISCUSSION REPORTED AS CONFUSED AND EMOTIONAL. MAREI PLEADED THAT DELEGATES NOT ALLOW MEETING MEETING TO END IN DISORDER. MEXICO AND SENEGAL IN PARTICULAR WERE CRITICAL OF SECRETARIAT, WHICH THEY FEEL THEY CANNOT CONTROL. MEETING ADJOURNED WITH NO REAL DECISION REACHED AND G-77 BEGAN PRIVATE CAUCUS.

2. COUNCIL RESUMED DISCUSSION AT 10:30 P.M. PAKISTAN CHAIRMAN OF GROUP-77 ORALLY INTRODUCED DECLARATION OF THE GROUP OF 77 WITH FOUR OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS AS FOLLOWS:

1. TO MAINTAIN THE ELECTED OFFICERS OR BUREAU IN THE COURSE OF THE FIRST SESSION (23-27 JUNE 1975).

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2. TO NOMINATE AN ADEQUATE SECRETARIAT WITH A BALANCED REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION ANSWERABLE TO THE WFC.

3. TO MAINTAIN THE COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE DRAFTING OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL PROVIDING IT WITH NECESSARY FACILITIES FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS WORK.

4. TO CHARGE THE PRESIDENT, ON WHOM THE GROUP REAFFIRMS ITS CONFIDENCE, WITH THE TASK OF CONVENING WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD A NEW SESSION OF THE COUNCIL AND TO ENSURE THAT THIS SESSION RESULTS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AFOREMENTIONED OBJECTIVES.

3. CHAOS ENSUED. VARIOUS WEO'S SOUGHT CLARIFY INTENT OF GROUP OF 77. CHAIRMAN OF G-77 SAID IT WAS EXPRESSION OF VIEW OF G-77. IT WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE BUT WOULD NOT NEED TO BE ADOPTED BY COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. MEXICAN DELEGATE SUPPORTED PAKISTAN POSITION THAT DECLARATION SHOULD APPEAR IN RECORD UNCHANGED BUT IF COUNCIL WISHED IT COULD SUPPORT THOSE POINTS ON WHICH THERE WAS CONSENSUS.

4. SENEGAL OBSERVER AS CHAIRMAN OF AFRICAN GROUP MADE VITUPERATIVE ATTACK ON PAKISTAN DELEGATE AND ACCUSED HIM OF BETRAYING GROUP OF 77 BECAUSE PROPOSED HANDLING MEANT THAT LDC MAJORITY COULD NOT RAILROAD DECLARATION THROUGH THE COUNCIL. MEXICAN AND PAKISTAN DELEGATES STOOD THEIR GROUND AND CHAIR STATED DECLARATION WOULD BE PLACED IN REPORT AS STATEMENT OF GROUP OF 77 AND COUNCIL WOULD PROCEED WITH ADOPTION OF REPORT.

5. DELEGATES FROM GABON, GUINEA, SENEGAL, ALGERIA AND LIBYA PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT IN THE VARIOUS EXCHANGES WHICH EGYPT TRIED MODERATE.

6. MEXICAN DELEGATE AS CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP ON PROCEDURES READ REPORT PREVIOUSLY CLEARED BY GROUP. THIS REPORT PROVIDED FOR COUNCIL AGREEMENT COVERING SUBSTANCE IN ACCEPTABLE FASHION OF PARAS 1 AND 3 OF DECLARATION U.S. NOTED REPORT AS PRESENTED DID NOT COMPORT WITH AGREED VERSION. U.S. DID NOT PRESS POINT ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL.

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7. DRAFT REPORT ON ITEM 5 OF AGENDA -- REVIEW OF WORLD FOOD SITUATION -- REFLECTED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT BY RAPporteur TO BE OBJECTIVE. HOWEVER, MANY MINOR CHANGES MADE BY WEO DELEGATES TO DIMINISH THE EFFECT OF POSITIONS TAKEN BY LDC'S.

8. DRAFT REPORT ON ITEM 6 OF AGENDA -- PROGRAM OF ACTION OF THE COUNCIL -- WAS OPENED FOR DISCUSSION AT 1:30 A.M. JUNE 28 WITH INTERPRETERS READY TO WALK OUT. CHAIR TRIED RUSH ADOPTION

OF REPORT, BUT USSR DEL EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT COMPETENCE OF WFC TO DETERMINE ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROPOSED WORKING GROUP BE ESTABLISHED LOOK AT THIS OVER COMING MONTHS. THIS SUPPORTED BY GABON, GUINEA, HUNGARY AND CUBA BUT OPPOTION BY WEO'S. CANADIAN COMPROMISE PROPOSAL THAT WORK PROGRAM BE REVIEWED BY COUNCIL AT ITS NEXT SESSION AGREED BY USSR AND ENABLED COUNCIL ADOPT REPORT WITH INIMUM OF MODIFICATION. WORK PROGRAM ESSENTIALLY DREW ON UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S STATEMENT AT OPENING FRIDAY SESSION.

9. WALKOUT OF INTERPRETERS AT 1:40 P.M. BROUGHT FURTHER CHAOS AND PROTEST BY FRENCH-SPEAKING DELEGATES FROM AFRICA. MAREI RECRUITED WFC AND FAO STAFF TO GIVE CONSECUTIVE TRANSLATION IN FRENCH AND SPANISH. THIS TEDIOS PROCEDURE BROUGHT BACK MOST AFRICANS SO THAT CHAIR WAS ABLE TO POINT OUT THAT PARAS 1 AND 3 OF G-77 DECLARATION COVERED BY REPORT. FURTHER HE URGED COUNCIL AGREE TO HOLD SPECIAL SESSION AS PROPOSED IN PARA 4 OF G-77 DECLARATION. THIS AGREED BY HOT, TIRED AND HUNGRY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

10. FINAL ACTION BY CHARIRMAN WAS PROPOSAL THAT PARA 2 OF DECLARATION SHOULD BE REFERRED TO WORKING GROUP ON PROCEDURES FOR STUDY OF LEGAL PROBLEM. (THIS SOLUTION CHOSEN BECAUSE WEO'S HAD POINTED OUT (AND LEGAL COUNSEL VERIFIED) THAT PROPOSAL WAS ILLEGAL. THIS ACCEPTED BY COUNCIL.

11. COUNCIL'S FIRST SESSION CLOSED AT 2:05 A.M.VOLPE

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